

both consisting of round cells and little stroma or framework, were treated. It was noted, however, that their phospho lipid turnover, after absorption of radioactive phosphorous, was quite different, the rate being much greater in the case of the lymphosarcoma.

Annual Conference of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, October 26-28, 1939.—With the hope that the headquarters of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness will be the mecca for the prevention of blindness to workers in the United States during this time, the society is planning to hold its annual conference October 26, 27, and 28, so that those from distant points who may be planning to enjoy the World's Fair may perhaps make their plans so that they may at the same time participate in the program of the society.

Headquarters for the annual conference will be the Astor Hotel in New York City. The society will be glad to make reservations in advance at this or other adjacent hotels for anybody planning to participate.

It is hoped that the conference will bring together from many states physicians, teachers, nurses, social workers and those active in the various fields of sight conservation. Arrangements will be made for extending the facilities of the society's offices at Rockefeller Center, 50 West Fiftieth Street, to all visitors.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Doctors Win Anti-Trust Case

Sherman Act Doesn't Apply, Court Holds
Government's Suit Against American Medical Association Is Thrown Out in District of Columbia

Washington, July 26 (AP).—Justice James M. Proctor of the District of Columbia Federal Court today dismissed the Government anti-trust proceedings against the American Medical Association.

He held that the practice of medicine is a profession and that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act applies only to business and trades.

The Department of Justice had obtained indictments against the American Medical Association, three other medical organizations and twenty-one prominent physicians on the grounds that they had conspired to restrain trade by fighting a group system of medical care at flat monthly charges.

Today's action sustained the American Medical Association's demurrer to the indictment. Unless Justice Proctor's ruling is reversed by a higher court, it will have the effect of closing the case.

Discrimination Charged

The Government acted when the Group Health Association, Inc., protested that the District of Columbia Medical Society was discriminating against it. The group was formed here to provide low-cost medical care, especially for the lower income groups. It found that certain hospitals and doctors refused to accept patients referred to them by the group's own doctors.

The Government investigated circumstances of this alleged discrimination for eight weeks and then presented the case to the Grand Jury here. The indictments followed.

In arguing against the demurrer which the Medical Association promptly filed, the Government asserted that Anglo-American law reaching back to the fifteenth century had regulated medicine by the same laws as those applying to any trade. Trade, the Department of Justice attorneys declared, includes every occupation in which money is habitually received, under contract, in return for some value given.

The American Medical Association counsel contended that this definition of trade was too broad and if applied would encompass all business and professions to the point of "destroying all human activity." Such a broadening of power, the American Medical Association contended, was contrary to common law and the American Constitution.

The group argued that medicine was a profession, not a trade, and therefore does not come under the scope of the Sherman Trade Restraint Act. That was the contention that Justice Proctor upheld.

Department Will Appeal

The other organizations named in the indictment were the District of Columbia Medical Society, the Harris County (Houston, Tex.) Medical Society and the Washington Academy of Surgery.

Wendell Berge, first assistant to Anti-Trust Chief Thurman Arnold, said he assumed the decision would be appealed.

"An appeal seems to me to be a foregone conclusion," he said. "I can't imagine our resting on a lower court's decision in a case of this importance."—*San Francisco News*, July 26.

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Medics Triumph in United States Battle on "Trust"

Washington, July 26 (AP).—The American Medical Association won a sweeping victory over the Government today when a federal district court held that the Sherman Anti-Trust Act could not apply to the practice of medicine.

Justice James M. Proctor, ruling out an indictment in which the Justice Department charged the American Medical Association and fellow defendants restrained the "trade" of Group Health Association, Inc., a coöperative health association in the District of Columbia, said.

"Is medical practice a trade within the meaning of section three of the Sherman Act? In my opinion, it is not."

Justice Department officials, while not commenting, indicated an appeal would be asked.

Justice Proctor remarked at one point that the indictment as drawn "smacks" of a "highly colored, argumentative discourse," and at another point he said it was "afflicted with vague and uncertain statements."

In some instances, he added, material facts were entirely lacking.

The indictment had declared that the defendants "combined and conspired" to restrain trade by seeking to prevent group health from arranging for medical care and hospitalization; by restraining the organization from "obtaining by coöperative efforts" adequate medical care for its members; by "restraining the doctors serving on the medical staff of Group Health Association, Inc., in the pursuit of their callings"; by restraining other doctors from serving it, and by "restraining the Washington hospitals in the business of operating such hospitals."

The grand jury had charged that the organizations and physicians agreed to forbid group health doctors to practice in Washington hospitals; had denied consultations to group health physicians.—*San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, July 26.

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Doctors Win in Anti-Trust Suit Over Group Medicine Indictment Against Association Killed

U. S. to Appeal Decision of Washington, D. C., Court
By The Associated Press

Washington, July 26.—The Department of Justice suffered a major defeat today when a Federal district judge tossed out of court an indictment charging the American Medical Association, three other medical organizations and twenty-one prominent physicians with violating the anti-trust laws.

Justice James M. Proctor ruled that medicine is not a trade, but a learned profession, and therefore that the defendants could not be guilty of restraint of trade in their alleged activities against Group Health Association, Inc., a coöperative set-up to afford medical care on a prepaid basis to federal employees in the District of Columbia.

The judge also caustically criticized the indictment, using such words as "bad," "improper," "highly colored," "vague" and "uncertain."

Early Appeal

The Justice Department announced in a formal statement tonight that "every effort" would be made to get a Supreme Court decision on the district court's action "at the earliest possible moment."

In a formal statement, the Department said it was making its announcement "not for the purpose of criticizing the opinion, but for the reason that it is important to inform physicians generally that until the Supreme Court has acted the Government's prosecution policy toward boycotts in the medical profession is unchanged."

"None of the reasoning of the opinion persuades the Department that doctors are free to engage in practices which would be illegal if they belonged to some other calling," the statement said.

Prosecution Looms

"In addition, any further restraints of the character included in the indictment will also be subject to prosecution."

"It is important the physicians not be misled on this point for the reason that the district court opinion is not a binding authority on other judges."

The indictment, returned by a Federal Grand Jury last December, charged that the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the Washington Academy of Surgery, the Harris County (Texas) Medical Society and the twenty-one physicians had "combined and conspired together for the purpose of restraining trade."

The specific charges were that they had interfered with the plans of Group Health Association by refusing consultation service to the group's physicians, by refusing them permission to practice in Washington hospitals, and by threatening to expel them from membership in the medical societies.

Leading Defendants

Among the defendants named in the indictment were Dr. Olin West, secretary and general manager of the American Medical Association; Dr. Morris Fishbein, its editor; Dr. William C. Woodward, Dr. William D. Cutter and Dr. Roscoe G. Leland, heads of three of its bureaus. The other doctors all were members of the District of Columbia Medical Society.

In rejecting the Government's argument that medical practice is trade within the meaning of the statute, Justice Proctor said:

"The thesis of Government counsel that 'trade' embraces all who habitually supply money's worth for money payment and their contention that the statute should be so broadly construed represents an extreme position which does violence to the common understanding of 'trade,' rejects authoritative decisions of our courts and ignores cardinal rules of statutory construction."

A recent decision of the Supreme Court redefined the word "trade" as used in the Sherman Act and exempted the learned professions, Justice Proctor said, "and admittedly the practice of medicine is one."

At Chicago today officials of the American Medical Association declared the organization had never opposed any well considered, expanded program of medical service "when the need can be established."

Nation-wide Topic

The local legal struggle has been the focal point of a nation-wide discussion over medical aid plans. These have been set up in every state and in about one-third of the counties, and in every instance the American Medical Association has insisted, through its member societies, that any organization attempting to provide medical care be under the direct control of medical men. Objections to Group Health were raised on the ground that it was a co-operative group of laymen which hired its own physicians and dominated them.

The association also argued that the same safeguard be provided in such a national health program as that proposed in the Wagner Health Bill now before Congress.

"The physician must be master in the house of medicine," has been the slogan of the association.—San Francisco *Examiner*, July 27.

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Washington Merry-Go-Round*

Social Medicine to Be McNutt's Main Job

Washington, July 19.—There was a reason why Paul McNutt took his oath in the office of Dr. Thomas Parran, head of the Public Health Service, and also will have his headquarters there.

That is the tip-off to his real job as chief of the new Federal Security Agency.

The platinum blonde Indianan will give little time to the Social Security Board, CCC, National Youth Administration, Public Health Service or the Office of Education. Each is well manned and operates under specific statutory powers. There is room for a certain amount of correlation of their activities, but that will be a secondary concern of McNutt.

His interest will be centered on the New Deal's social medicine program.

Senator Bob Wagner, father of the Social Security Act, introduced a bill at the opening of this session for an \$800,000,000 public health plan, ranging from free medical service for the needy to the construction of hospitals and establishment of government disability insurance. The Senate Labor Committee has held a number of hearings on the measure and plans to make a report before adjournment. But beyond that there is no chance of any action this year.

That is exactly where McNutt enters the picture.

He will drive to prepare the ground for the enactment of legislation next year.

What form this legislation will take is something McNutt will work out with medical leaders and experts. The Wagner bill will be the starting point. It is the result of a year's study by a special committee appointed by the President and

headed by Miss Josephine Roche, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Two Reasons

There are two reasons behind this undercover strategy:

First is the 1940 presidential campaign. The Administration wants a broad-gauged public health program to its credit on the law books as 1940 approaches. In the spring of 1936, it enacted the Social Security Act and made big capital of it among voters.

Second reason is that the New Dealers have learned that Dr. Glenn Frank, chairman of the Republican Program Committee, is secretly formulating a public health plan for use as a G. O. P. ballot lure.

Exact nature and extent of Frank's Republican program is not known, but inside information in the hands of the White House group indicates that he aims to have the G. O. P. offer the plan as a concrete illustration of the constructive things it will accomplish if elected, as compared with Democratic lack of accomplishment.

Administration master minds are out to beat the Republicans to the punch and it will be McNutt's goal to steal their thunder by putting over a Democratic health program.

Note—Among the telegrams received by McNutt congratulating him on his FSA appointment was one from Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the official magazine of the American Medical Association and a violent foe of social medicine. . . .—San Francisco *Chronicle*, July 20.

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Dentists Told Liberty Periled*

Free Initiative Menaced by Government, Says Publisher Gannett

Milwaukee, July 18 (AP).—Frank E. Gannett, Rochester, N. Y., publisher, called upon the American Dental Association today to "repeal assault upon liberty of enterprise, individual initiative and personal dignity—upon qualities which are the foundation of all that we call the American way."

Asserting that "progress comes not from centralization and political control but from opportunity for free initiative," Gannett told the Association's eighty-first annual convention:

"Today freedom of the professions is under jeopardy in America. The medical profession was the first to be placed under check. American medicine has been fighting for its life."

Sees Threat to Bar

Gannett declared the assault upon the professions had been extended to law, since "last week Solicitor-General Jackson announced to the lawyers that if they did not organize the Government would step in and take care of the constantly increasing proportion unable to secure legal services."

Suggests Program

Gannett advocated a return to "sound economic principles" and a recovery program including: a national policy "worthy of confidence," restoration of farm income, a "sound" monetary system, restoration of "incentive," friendly capital-labor relations, lower governmental expenses, useful public works "free of politics," and a long-term neutrality policy.—Los Angeles *Times*, July 19.

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Medical Care Need Shown in Report

A survey of medical needs, requested by members of the State Legislature, has revealed that 41.68 per cent of American families are too poor to meet the full cost of medical care, it was stated today by the "Bureau of Public Administration of the University of California." †

A total of 40,000,000 persons in the United States were subsisting on an emergency standard of living in 1938.—San Francisco *Examiner*, July 24.

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Los Angeles Healthiest City

Doctor Parrish's Annual Report Reveals New Decline in Death Rate

El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula (Los Angeles to you) is the most healthful large city in America.

That was the enthusiastic statement, backed by facts and figures, of Dr. George Parrish, city health officer, yesterday as he completed compilation of his departmental report for the fiscal year ending June 30.

During the last year this city's death rate—already the best among large American cities—dropped from 10.65 per

* In this issue, see also on page 74, editorial comment, "The Professions: Are All to Bow to Governmental Paternalism?"

† NOTE.—It is unfortunate that such erroneous figures should go out for publication, over the name of a department of the State University of California.

* By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen.

1,000 persons to a new low of 9.16 per 1,000, Doctor Parrish's records showed.

The infant death rate (children under 1 year) dropped from 48 per 1,000 to a new low of 37.42.

Moving from the human to the economic side of the ledger, the health officer reported that Los Angeles had no epidemics last year, that its dairies under supervision of the health agency have received commendation from the highest health authorities in the nation.—*Los Angeles Times*, July 20.

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The Doctors' Problem

The plan to set up a State-supervised medical service at a cost of \$60,000,000 per year, to be supported by taxes on employers and employees, has been beaten. The Assembly rejected the measure, 48-20.

The bill, which was endorsed by the administration, would have provided medical and hospital service on a basis similar to the unemployment reserves plan. In favor of the proposal was the fact that it would have provided this service on a systematic basis for low-income groups. Against it was the fact that still another tax would have been laid upon business and the people and that almost inevitably the control of the service would have been shifted to a bureaucratic political machine, with consequent sure deterioration in the quality of the service rendered.

The history of this type of public medical service, in countries where it has been tried, is that the care received by the people is inferior to that received in this country, and the strides toward the control of disease are slower than here.

However, the fact that this far-reaching proposal received even twenty votes in the California Assembly, together with the Wagner bill in Congress which would subsidize a huge expansion of government medicine throughout the country, should serve as handwriting on the wall for the physicians of the State and Nation.

The medical men of the United States can hold up their heads with any in the world for the gains they have made in the unending conflict with disease. Smallpox, diphtheria, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, pneumonia—none of these is the scourge it was ten years ago and even the dread cancer is certain ultimately to be conquered.

However, the physicians themselves have long admitted that there is a genuine need for better medical service for the great middle class group. The poor are taken care of in county hospitals. The rich can pay for service. But the middle class often finds sickness a financial burden that is very heavy to bear.

Part of the fault lies with the people themselves. They budget for their autos, refrigerators and amusements but do not set aside any amount for medical and hospital care. It should be made simple and easy for the ordinary family to budget a moderate amount each month to take care of illness when it comes.

Perhaps the California Physicians' Service, which will soon go into operation, will provide the systematic, low-cost service needed. At any rate, the doctors, seeing the public demand for such service, should take the lead in providing it, as they seem to be prepared to do, rather than allow legislators to put over a politics-controlled system.—*Lodi Times*, June 23.

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State Health Insurance Losses; Doctors to Offer Their Plan

Defeat of the bill to establish compulsory health insurance in California by a two-to-one vote in the Assembly was not altogether unexpected. There were two main reasons why the bill should have been defeated—one, that the State Medical Association is working on a plan which promises to be far superior to a State controlled and operated plan, and, two, the inequitable financial provisions of the State plan.

The doctors of the State asked that the bill be defeated, and that they be allowed to work out their own solution to the problem of proper medical care for the lower income groups. It now remains for the doctors to put their plan in operation and have it working by the time the next Legislature meets. If it is operating successfully by then there will be no need of State action.

The danger the doctors themselves face is that some members of the medical profession will take the defeat of the State proposal as an indication there is no special hurry to get their plan in operation, or that the trend to socialized medicine has ended. In either event, the next Legislature will not listen to the doctors but pass legislation which might not be popular with either the doctors or the income group which needs but cannot afford medical aid.

The plan advanced by the Medical Association is a volunteer proposal, which is always better than a compulsory service. To make it work coöperation from both doctors and patients is needed. This guarantees better service from the doctor and greater trust on the part of those needing attention.—*Santa Barbara News-Press*, June 17.

Newspapers Praised for Fight on Disease

Social Hygiene Director Tells of Coöperation

American newspapers, through frank treatment of the problem of social diseases, have taken front rank in the battle against one of the Nation's greatest menaces to health.

Such was the statement yesterday of Dr. Walter Clarke, executive director of the American Social Hygiene Association of New York, as he spoke before members of the Western Branch, American Public Health Association, at the opening session of their six-day conference in Oakland.

Truth Disclosed

"Newspapers have coöperated with the American Social Hygiene Association in telling the public the simple, hopeful truth about venereal diseases," Doctor Clarke said.

"Yet some states and many cities, towns and rural areas do not even have a program for combating these diseases nor do they have facilities for diagnosis, treatment or control," he said.

"Our most immediate task is to aid in setting up such programs and adequate facilities. It is true that public opinion has been awakened, yet millions of people do not know how to avoid or prevent infection, do not know what to do if infected, or how to protect their families from danger.

"We must continue and enlarge our program of public information until it reaches all strata of society in every community, large or small," Doctor Clarke declared.

Two Hundred Registered

Over two hundred delegates had registered for the convention yesterday, and several hundred more are expected today. A joint meeting with the health education group of the Sixth Pacific Science Congress is planned for 3 p. m. today in the Hotel Oakland. Dr. Ira V. Hiscock of the Yale University School of Medicine will preside.—*San Francisco Examiner*, July 24.

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Scientists' Congress

Dozen Nations Scheduled for Representation

A "peace conference," organized in the name of science but of far more importance to the welfare of man than any meeting of world diplomats, will open in Berkeley today.

It is the Sixth Pacific Science Congress, bringing together the great scientific minds of a dozen nations bordering on the Pacific Ocean or with interests in the Pacific basin.

Around the conference tables they will meet in harmony to discuss problems of the world of science, and from the friendly exchange of ideas may well develop trends of scientific thought of incalculable value to the comfort and well-being of future generations. . . .

Group Meetings

At group meetings today, the scientists will get down to business after a morning devoted to registration. The problems of epidemics, with special emphasis on enteric infections, dysenteries, cholera and typhoid fever, will be discussed at a meeting of the epidemiology subsection of the health and public nutrition group at a meeting in the Life Sciences Building on the Berkeley campus at 1:30 o'clock.

Dr. John F. Kessel of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, will preside, and among the speakers will be James J. Saper of the United States Navy Medical Corps, Panama; Charles A. Kofoid of the University of California and the State Board of Health; John F. Kessel of the University of Southern California School of Medicine, Los Angeles; Amador Neghme, Director of the Department of Parasitology, Chile; H. J. Sears of the University of Oregon; Albert V. Hardy of Columbia University; E. Hormaeche, N. Surraco, and P. L. Aleppo of Uruguay; C. L. Pasricha of Calcutta, India, and H. Yu of Shanghai, China.

Health Discussion

At a joint meeting with the Western Branch of the American Public Health Association, to begin at 3 p. m. in the Oakland Hotel, delegates will discuss the problems of health education and health in public schools and institutions. . . . *San Francisco Examiner*, July 24.

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Health Insurance

The State Assembly, by a decisive two-to-one vote, defeated the bill to establish compulsory health insurance in California. The opposition to the measure was largely due to the inequitable financial provisions of the proposal and not against health insurance itself, whether voluntary or compulsory. It is generally recognized that there is a problem of proper medical care for lower income groups which must be faced, but the existing voluntary plans and those proposed and being worked out should be given opportunity for trial to the end that more practical information be made

available to all interested groups. This may finally result in an equitable solution.

The measure which was defeated proposed an additional tax upon employees, but two-thirds of the amount would be provided by the general public. The bill was in effect socialized medicine for the State of California. It was feared by the medical profession that the whole plan would bring about regimentation of doctors and patients and political interference in their relationship.

In the meantime the State Medical Association has adopted a plan of health insurance to meet the present situation. Alameda County, for instance, is successfully operating under such a plan. Out of all the agitation and discussion it is the general belief that the existing voluntary plans will be satisfactorily worked out.—Long Beach Press-Telegram, June 18.

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State Medical Men to Fight On for Health Insurance

Defeat of the State health insurance bill of the California medical men will not stop organization of the California Physicians' Service, according to Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford University and head of the service. This means, perhaps, that the set-up may be changed in some particulars to meet the legislative objections responsible for the loss of the measure and to make the proposal effective.

It is interesting to know that more than 400,000 applications for information on the service have been received at headquarters and that 4,962 of the State's 6,300 licensed physicians have been enrolled in the service, according to Doctor Wilbur. This indicates that the profession strongly fortifies a general health insurance plan and furnishes a substantial basis on which to erect a system that will meet public conditions.—Hanford Journal, June 16.

* * *

But—Says Boake Carter

New Dealers Now Seek to Socialize Law

Are the lawyers to be next on the list to feel the heavy hand of government competition?

Solicitor-General Bob Jackson claims that lawyers in general are charging too high fees for their services and that the Government may therefore be compelled to provide free legal service for people who cannot pay the fees of the private law firms.

"Low cost, high volume" legal service was his solution.

This piece of advice, coming from a lawyer representing a political organization whose high jinks have been so confusing as to provide more work for the legal fraternity than at any other time in the history of the American bar, borders on the comic.

A lawyer is justified in charging a fee which he believes commensurate with the worth of the services he renders, as is any artist, radio singer, movie actor, engineer, doctor, dentist or other professional man.

We have not yet reached the stage where we must submit to a system of socialized legal advice, as Mr. Jackson seems to envision as America's crying need, any more than we are prepared to accept socialized medicine. The relationship between client and lawyer is as intimate as the relationship between doctor and patient. And the very first person to turn thumbs down on the idea of government competition with the lawyers would be the average American citizen himself.

* * *

To be sure, some of the lawyers charge fees which seem outlandish. But their "outlandishness" can be measured only by the worth of the service rendered by the lawyer in the estimation of the client. A man accused of murder may feel he paid a cheap price in \$25,000 if the lawyer to whom he paid it convinced the jury his client was innocent. There are lawyers who specialize in certain departments of law. Many of these establish a high standard of success before the bar. They are successful primarily because they are diligent and careful of detail. These characteristics are attainable only through long hours of hard work. For such "crimes" are they to be penalized?

Mr. Jackson was not known as anything extraspecial in the legal profession before he managed to climb aboard the New Deal bandwagon. By his avidity for politics and knowing whose political mug to kiss, rather than by his technological cunning as a lawyer, did Mr. Jackson rise to the position of Solicitor-General. Not in the widest stretch of imagination could Mr. Jackson hold a professional candle to the standards of sheer legal brilliance of the late Solicitor-General James M. Beck.

Where, then, does Mr. Jackson obtain the presumption blandly to inform some of the ablest legal brains of the Nation that they had better socialize their talents or else risk government competition in free advice? Simply that he is a politically appointed Solicitor-General gives him no excuse.

Furthermore, the boom in the law business during the last seven years is traceable to one source and one source alone—the New Deal, which Mr. Jackson represents. Most lawyers nowadays have to be mental trapeze artists to keep abreast of the twisted concoctions that have poured forth in a steady stream from the legal brains employed by the New Deal.

"The Government," says Mr. Jackson, "sees a large number of citizens who help pay taxes, deprived of legal service because they cannot pay the provisional scale of prices."

To begin with, a citizen cannot turn around nowadays, figuratively speaking, without being forced to go to a lawyer to find out whether he is or isn't unwittingly breaking some fool law, government ruling or regulation. In the second place, the lawyer whom he consults has a perpetual nightmare himself trying to keep up with the parade. The average citizen would not always be forced to run for legal advice these days, as indeed he must to keep out of a government jail, if the master minds in Washington quit thinking up new methods of regulating American economy from soup to nuts.

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"It has been for centuries thought the duty of government to take affirmative steps to see that its citizens received justice," Jackson observed.

The first step to carry out that thought in a "representative" form of government (Jackson forgot to include that word "representative") is for the Government to abstain from competing with the endeavors of its citizens!

Mr. Jackson had better go back to Jamestown, N. Y., and private law. He might get back to earth again—on the other side of the fence!—San Francisco Examiner, July 17.

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Nurses Cheered by New State Law

Leaders Believe Licensing Act Will Raise Standards in Nursing Profession

If nurse hums a tune when she brings in your tray, or cuts a buck and wing in the hospital corridor, don't fret. This is her day to cheer. Her professional manner isn't suffering—her professional standing has been raised.

There's rejoicing today among registered nurses in the State of California, and particularly among the 10,494 members of the California Nurses Association. Assembly Bill 620, licensing all nurses practicing as professional graduate nurses in California, has been signed by Governor Olson.

The very pen with which the Governor affixed his signature yesterday to the measure for which the Association has worked long and hard was triumphantly brought to San Francisco today by Mrs. Gertrude R. Folendorf, State president. Miss Harriott L. P. Friend, director at headquarters; Mrs. Jessie Gardner, legislative chairman, and a delegation of all nurses who could get off duty, met Mrs. Folendorf at the Third and Townsend station at 9 a. m. today to escort her and the pen to headquarters. Governor Olson signed the bill after a public hearing during which representatives of the American Practical Trained Nurses Association protested that the measure would discriminate against the practical nurse.

"I do not believe this bill will affect practical nurses by eliminating them from employment," said the Governor. "If it develops that it does so affect them, I shall have it amended."

The California State Nurses Association itself had introduced an amendment, passed with the bill, stating that it was not the intent of the act to limit others from caring for the sick as long as they do not misrepresent their status or assume the duties which can safely be performed only by a trained and skilled graduate nurse.

The bill also sets up a board of nurse examiners, appointed by the Governor, controlling nursing schools of the State. The California State Nurses Association has long advocated the setting up of such a board, holding that applicants for nursing licenses should be examined by their own profession, as is the practice among members of other professions.

"We feel that this bill raises the standards of the nursing profession," said Mrs. Folendorf.

"It also protects the public. When anyone calls for a graduate nurse he knows he is getting one fully qualified in the care of the sick."

High praise was extended by Mrs. Folendorf and Miss Friend to the forty-five district divisions of the Association, which worked together for passage of the bill.

The bill was introduced into the Assembly by Melvin I. Cronin of San Francisco, passed the Assembly May 5, and the Senate June 6.

The Association has already set up a committee to study nursing conditions and set up a nursing service designed to meet the needs of the community. This committee work will be furthered at the 1939 convention of California profes-

sional nursing organizations, set for August 14 to 17 in San Francisco.—San Francisco News, July 18.

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"Doctors Should Report Drivers"

A change in State laws which would make it mandatory for physicians to report drivers whom they consider unsafe was urged by Dr. Walter Scott Franklin, vice-president of the California Safety Council, at a meeting of the group yesterday.

"As the law stands," he said, "a physician is not permitted to report such cases. We could achieve a great accident reduction if physicians were compelled to report flagrant cases."

The dangerously slow as well as the physically incompetent driver was also scored by Doctor Franklin, who pointed out that it is not necessarily the fast motorist who causes accidents. The latter, provided his speed is not caused by recklessness, alcoholism nor competitiveness, is usually a good driver, he said, whereas the slow driver often causes an accumulation of fifteen to twenty cars behind him, inducing recklessness in those who want to get ahead.

Within the near future, according to Doctor Franklin, autos will be equipped with special headlight glass to eliminate glare for about \$22 per automobile and drivers will be urged to wear glareless glasses. Night blindness, a contributing cause to many accidents, is caused by deficiency in vitamin "A" and may be rectified by a diet heavy in spinach, cheese, dried apricots and calves' liver, he said.—San Francisco News, June 30.

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Poliomyelitis Fund Sought

General Hospital Reports Increase in Number of Cases

Officials of General Hospital yesterday appealed to the Board of Supervisors for funds to combat poliomyelitis, which has been increasing in number of cases during the last few days.

Thirty Being Treated

Everett J. Gray, executive superintendent of the hospital, reported thirty cases are now under treatment. The victims are coming from all parts of the county. There does not seem to be any section where the disease is more prevalent.

Colonel Wayne R. Allen, County Manager, in forwarding Superintendent Gray's report to the supervisors, said:

"The hospital authorities have been informed that the present situation is to be considered as an emergency and that ample personnel and medical attention must be given regardless of budget limitations. Any additional expenses will be appropriated from the unappropriated reserve, which is the purpose of providing reserves in the county budget."

Ward Segregated

The hospital has set up a special segregated ward for treatment in preparation for any further outbreaks of the disease. This ward now has been opened and organized for the present emergency.

Ordinarily there are only two or three cases of the disease under treatment at General Hospital, sometimes none.—Los Angeles Times, July 13.

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Holiday Deaths Pass 300; None Due to Fireworks

(By the Associated Press)

Building to the climax of Independence Day, violent deaths for the first three days of the four-day "week-end" passed three hundred last night.

As in recent years, automobile fatalities accounted for more than half the total, with 165. Drownings ran a poor second with 84.

Fireworks, once notorious as dealers of sudden destruction, caused not a single reported fatality. The only fireworks accident of any proportions was recorded in Brooklyn, where five boys were injured by setting off a handful of giant cannon crackers inside a tin container. Two of them may die, doctors said.

Railroad accidents killed 16, shootings a dozen, airplane crashes 3, while miscellaneous forms of violence totaled 27.

The list by states, including all causes, was:

Alabama, 9; Arizona, 2; Arkansas, 3; California, 26; Colorado, 4; Connecticut, none; Florida, 7; Georgia, 10; Idaho, 1; Illinois, 11; Indiana, 13; Iowa, 5; Kansas, 5; Kentucky, 8; Louisiana, 5; Maine, 5; Missouri, 11; Massachusetts, 10; Michigan, 9; Minnesota, 8; Mississippi, 9; Montana, 4; Nebraska, 4; New Hampshire, 2; New Jersey, 10; New Mexico, 1; New York, 22; North Dakota, 3; Ohio, 22; Oklahoma, 5; Oregon, 3; Pennsylvania, 14; South Carolina, 5; South Dakota, 3; Tennessee, 4; Texas, 18; Utah, 1; Virginia, 9; West Virginia, 4; Washington, 6; Wisconsin, 2; and District of Columbia, 1.—Los Angeles Examiner, July 4.

LETTERS

Subject: Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons.

To the Editor:—The twenty-ninth annual Clinical Congress will be held in Philadelphia, October 16 to 20. The surgeons of that great medical center will present a five-day clinical program that will provide a complete showing of their clinical activities in all departments of surgery.

At the presidential meeting and convocation Monday evening, Dr. Howard C. Naffziger of San Francisco will deliver the presidential address and the new officers will be inaugurated: Dr. George P. Muller, Philadelphia, president; Dr. Henry W. Cave, New York, and Dr. David E. Robertson, Toronto, vice-presidents. On this occasion fellowship will be conferred upon the 1939 class of initiates.

The preliminary clinical program appears in the June Bulletin of the College and the June issue of "Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics." It will be noted that the schedules are arranged by specialties, and so correlated that the visiting surgeon may devote his time continuously to those subjects in which he is most interested. . . .

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE CRILL,
Chairman, Board of Regents.

Subject: Ambulatory Tipster.

A Santa Barbara colleague sends the following information:

"An Irishman, aged about 35, claiming to be a jockey and horse trainer, with wide knowledge of tracks and races as well as the names of doctors in many cities, is visiting doctors and stating he is contemplating a septum operation.

"Just as he leaves, he offers a hot tip on the day's races at Hollywood, with promise of big winnings. Oddly, his horses do win, but he never returns. Names—Hannigan, Hunt, and Hickgerald.

"I refused his offer, but two of my friends lost small sums, and also a tenfold winning on one of the tips."

Subject: San Francisco Surgical Society.

San Francisco, California,
July 1, 1939.

To the Editor:—I have been instructed to advise you of the formation of the San Francisco Surgical Society during the spring of this year.

The Society consists of twenty-four founder members. The officers are Thomas F. Mullen, president; George K. Rhodes, vice-president; John W. Cline, secretary-treasurer.

Regular scientific and clinical meetings will be held throughout the year.

Very truly yours,

JOHN W. CLINE, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Subject: Clinics for Venereal Diseases.

San Francisco, California,
July 1, 1939.

To the Editor:—The Health Department clinic at 680 Howard Street, San Francisco, operated by the Department of Public Health, San Francisco City and County, cooperating with the State Health Department and the United States Public Health Service, for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases, is now engaged in its fourth month of service.

An effort is being made to direct patients found able to pay for care to private physicians. Plans are under way to establish a list of physicians willing to treat venereal disease